

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4763

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a program to award grants to eligible entities to carry out projects that further agricultural resiliency and modernization, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2021

Mr. HARDER of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a program to award grants to eligible entities to carry out projects that further agricultural resiliency and modernization, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*

2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Future of Agricultural

5       Resiliency And Modernization Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

1                   (1) The evidence for human-induced climate  
2       change is undeniable and our agricultural commu-  
3       nities are increasingly experiencing the impacts of  
4       climate change.

5                   (2) The volatility of weather patterns, ranging  
6       from more frequent and severe droughts, floods, and  
7       wildfires can negatively impact agricultural produc-  
8       tivity.

9                   (3) Rural communities, that often lack Federal  
10      and State resources, are especially vulnerable to the  
11      impacts of climate change, such as revenue losses,  
12      hours lost at work, and infrastructure damages.

13                  (4) Climate resilient practices and technologies  
14       are needed to help save Federal, State, and local  
15       taxpayers money. These technologies include manure  
16       resource recovery systems, which recover the nutri-  
17       ents contained in organic matter from their source  
18       help protect water quality.

19                  (5) The need for measures that promote energy  
20       and water use efficiency, conservation, and renew-  
21       able energy will greatly reduce the adverse impacts  
22       of climate change.

23                  (6) Many farmers and agricultural producers  
24       are currently utilizing environmentally beneficial  
25       practices that also better their production costs.



1       species, in a manner that protects the environment,  
2       infrastructure, and agricultural lands in the United  
3       States.

4                 (10) Federal assistance is needed to help farm-  
5       ing practices become more resilient and sustainable  
6       for the long-term.

7       **SEC. 3. FUTURE OF AGRICULTURAL RESILIENCY AND MOD-  
8                          ERNIZATION FUND.**

9                 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Agriculture  
10      (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall carry  
11      out a program to award grants to eligible entities to carry  
12      out projects for a qualified purpose.

13                 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to re-  
14      ceive a grant under this section is—

15                         (1) a Federal agency;

16                         (2) a State or a group of States;

17                         (3) a unit of local government or a group of  
18      local governments;

19                         (4) an irrigation district;

20                         (5) a Tribal government or a consortium of  
21      Tribal governments;

22                         (6) a State or regional transit agency or a  
23      group of State or regional transit agencies;

24                         (7) a nonprofit organization;

(8) a special purpose district or public authority;

(10) any other entity, as determined by the Secretary.

8       (c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity selected to re-  
9 ceive a grant under this section may use funds received  
10 through the grant to carry out projects that further agri-  
11 cultural resiliency and modernization through—

12 (1) reducing greenhouse gas emissions and in-  
13 creasing resilience in the agricultural sector;

14 (2) increasing carbon sequestration;

15 (3) improving soil health;

20                         (5) in accordance with State and Federal law,  
21                         expediting projects with a focus in renewable energy,  
22                         including biofuels;

23 (6) incorporating collaborative partnerships that  
24 involve local communities in project planning on eco-

1 nomic and social benefits of sustainable agricultural  
2 production;

3 (7) investing in climate-resilient infrastructure  
4 and technology;

5 (8) converting plant wastes into higher value  
6 biocarbon products, including practices like pyrol-  
7 ysis;

8 (9) improving air and water quality, including  
9 pollutants and odors, with dairy digesters and non-  
10 digester manure management practices and tech-  
11 nologies;

12 (10) supporting clean air, water, climate, and a  
13 sustainable environment helping develop local and  
14 national resilience strategies against droughts,  
15 wildfires, and floods;

16 (11) supporting and funding purchases of  
17 cleaner and lower or zero emission agriculture-re-  
18 lated equipment like harvesting equipment, heavy-  
19 duty trucks, agricultural pump engines, tractors,  
20 and other equipment used in agricultural operations;  
21 and

22 (12) increasing research on the most effective  
23 methods of eradicating and controlling invasive spe-  
24 cies and pests, such as nutria and spotted lantern  
25 fly.

1       (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry  
2 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated  
3 \$500,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

4 **SEC. 4. PYROLYSIS INNOVATION FUND GRANT PROGRAM.**

5       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall  
6 establish a program under which the Secretary will award  
7 grants to eligible entities to carry out not fewer than 10  
8 pilot projects, with the potential to reduce or sequester  
9 greenhouse emissions that convert and valorize tree nut  
10 harvest by-products into multiple higher value biocarbon  
11 products, including sustainable industrial applications,  
12 agrochemicals, repurposing process heat, energy and con-  
13 struction materials.

14       (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—The term “eligible  
15 entity” means—

16           (1) a third-party private entity, the primary  
17 business of which is related to agriculture (as deter-  
18 mined by the Secretary);

19           (2) a nongovernmental organization with experi-  
20 ence working with agricultural producers (as deter-  
21 mined by the Secretary); and

22           (3) a governmental organization.

23       (c) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date  
24 on which the first grant is awarded under subsection (a),  
25 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agri-

1 culture of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
2 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-  
3 ate a report on—

4                 (1) the activities carried out using grants  
5 awarded under such subsection;

6                 (2) best practices used to leverage the invest-  
7 ment of the Federal Government for the purposes  
8 specified in subsection (a); and

9                 (3) an assessment of the results achieved by the  
10 program established under this section.

11                 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
12 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
13 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

